

WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEDGEHOGS NURSERY & SUNBEAMS CLUB



Equipment & Resources Policy



Updated: July 2025
Review Date: July 2028

At Woodlands Primary School, Hedgehogs Nursery and Sunbeams Club, we organise all of our rooms to meet the needs and range of abilities of the children. The Hedgehogs room environment is designed specifically to meet the individual needs of all children aged 9 to 24 months. We provide a wide range of high-quality, robust and durable equipment and resources that support children's development and learning through play.

We take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of babies and young toddlers and make sure that they are not exposed to avoidable risks.

Resources and Equipment in the Hedgehog Room

In the baby room and outdoor areas, we provide:

- Play equipment and resources that are safe, age-appropriate, and (where applicable) meet recognised industry safety standards such as EN 1176, EN 1177, or the Toys (Safety) Regulations 1995.
- We make sure that there is sufficient quantity of equipment and resources for the number of children attending each day.
- There is always a wide range of high-quality resources available that support each child's stage of development, interests, and learning needs.
- There will be inclusive and diverse resources that represent people of different races, cultures, ages, genders, and abilities.
- Resources that encourage exploration, creativity, and problem-solving, with the right level of challenge for babies and toddlers.
- Open-ended materials and equipment to promote sensory play, physical development, and communication.
- Storage systems that allow some toys and materials to be displayed at low levels, so children can independently choose what to play with.
- Systems to safely store, clean, and rotate toys and equipment to keep the environment fresh and interesting.

We also involve the babies in exploring new resources and observe their reactions and preferences when introducing something new.

Safety Checks and Risk Assessments

To keep all children safe, we:

- Check all toys, furniture, and equipment before they are used for the first time.
- Carry out daily checks at the beginning and end of each session to make sure all resources are clean, safe, and suitable for use.
- Complete risk assessments for any new items or activities.
- Remove and repair or replace any damaged or worn-out resources as needed.

Cleaning and Maintenance

All equipment and resources are cleaned regularly following our cleaning schedule. Items that are mouthed or heavily used (such as soft toys, teething rings, or sensory items) are cleaned and sanitised more frequently.

We:

- Keep a record of all resources and equipment, including the date they were purchased, on an asset register, updated annually.

- Review the quality and use of resources regularly, taking into account how the children engage with them.
- Encourage children to help tidy up by returning toys to their correct place, using pictures and visual cues to support their understanding.
- Ensure that adult's model how to care for and use resources safely and gently, using simple language and repetition to help young children learn.
- Are committed to providing a safe, stimulating, and nurturing environment where every child can explore and learn through play.